

June 27, 2013

Via email to Denise.Foster@courts.wa.gov

Hon. Barbara Madsen, Chief Justice
Hon. Charles Johnson, Associate Chief Justice
c/o Clerk of the Court
Washington State Supreme Court
P.O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Re: Proposed Uniform Collaborative Law Rules

Dear Chief Justice Madsen, Justice Johnson and Justices of the Supreme Court:

I am writing on behalf of the *Whatcom Collaborative Professionals*¹ group based in Bellingham, Washington to state our opposition to the enactment of the Proposed Uniform Collaborative Law Rules currently under consideration.

We are a group of fifteen attorneys, four mental health professionals and two financial professionals who have focused their training and education on providing effective collaborative divorces to couples in our community. We supported and were elated when the Uniform Collaborative Law Act (UCLA) was passed by the Washington State Legislature. Our group exists in part to ensure that members of our community receive quality representation when they undertake a collaborative divorce. The UCLA advances that purpose.

Whatcom Collaborative Professionals is not supportive of the proposed Uniform Collaborative Law Rules. Our objections track those stated so eloquently and intelligently by King County Collaborative Law in its letter dated June 21, 2013 and we second their objections. It is imperative that those who actually provide collaborative law services to our citizens be involved in any process that proposes to create rules that implement the UCLA. The proposed rules do not guide the courts or practitioners and

¹ Formed in 2005 and incorporated as a non-profit in 2010, information about Whatcom Collaborative Professionals can be found at www.whatcomcollaborativelaw.com.

most especially do nothing to protect Washington state citizens who elect to dissolve their marriages using trained collaborative professionals.

Thank you for taking time to consider the opinions of our group as you decide on the appropriateness and necessity of the Proposed Rules.

Sincerely,



Laura Weight

cc: Whatcom Collaborative Professionals members